

Message Text

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41

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 H-03 SSO-00 SCA-01 EB-05 CG-00

/020 W

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O R 221534Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2208

INFO AMCONSUL MARACAIBO

UNCLAS CARACAS 10927

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: AMCITS RESCUED AT SEA

REF: CARACAS 10870; STATE 247781

1. AMCITS ARRIVED PUNTA CARDON LATE NIGHT DEC. 21. CHIEF MARINE OFFICIAL AT PUNTA CARDON SHELL FACILITY TOLD US DEC. 22 THAT ALL THREE SURVIVORS IN EXCELLENT HEALTH AND THAT NONE OF THREE SUFFERED INJURIES.

2. SURVIVORS HAVE BEEN ON BOARD SHELL TANKER FOR PAST FIVE DAYS SINCE THEY WERE PICKED UP OFF CAPE HATTERAS DURING WHAT TANKER CAPTAIN DESCRIBED AS WORST STORM HE HAD EVER EXPERIENCED. TANKER CAPTAIN SAID TO HAVE OBSERVED THAT THREE AMCITS LUCKY TO HAVE SURVIVED ORDEAL. SURVIVORS NATURALLY SHAKEN BY EXPERIENCE, BUT PLUCKY GROUP CONSIDERED BY EXPERIENCED OBSERVERS TO BE IN GOOD SHAPE. MOST OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS TAKEN ABOARD TANKER. YACHT COULD NOT BE TOWED OWING TO BAD WEATHER NOR TAKEN ABOARD BECAUSE OF ITS WEIGHT.

3. AMCONSUL MARACAIBO NOW WITH SURVIVORS IN PUNTA CARDON. THREE AMCITS HAVE COMPLETED VENEZUELAN IMMIGRATION FORMALITIES AND WILL DEPART WITH AMCONSUL BY AUTOMOBILE FOR MARACAIBO MID-DAY DEC. 22. TRIP WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY FIVE HOURS. SHELL OIL COMPANY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO US IN ASSISTING SURVIVORS.

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4. CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST CONGRESSMAN FASCELL.

MCCLINTOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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